

# New student tours

**Beal School for incoming Grade 1 students**

School tour will be held on Thursday, August 29 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

**Coolidge School**

School Tour will be held on Wednesday, August 28 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

(Marge Clark, the principal, will meet with any parents and their children, who moved in during the summer prior to the School Tour, from 8:30 to 9:00 am in the media center at Coolidge School.)

**Floral Street School for Grades 1 to 4**

School Tour will be held on Wednesday, August 28 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

**Floral Street School for Grade 5 at the Middle School**

School Tour will be held on Tuesday, August 27 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

**Paton School**

School Tour will be held on Thursday, August 29 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. PTO Representatives and students will be available to share information and give tours of the school.

**Spring Street School**

Newcomers Coffee will be held on Thursday, August 22 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

**Middle School for grades 6 & 7**

School Tour will be held on Wednesday, August 28th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. All incoming students and families are invited to attend.

**Middle School for grade 8**

School Tour will be held at the new High School on Tuesday, August 27th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

**New Shrewsbury High School, 64 Holden Street**

Grade 9 orientation will be held on Wednesday, August 28th at 6:30 pm.

School Tours for students will be held on Tuesday, August 27th: Grade 10 tour at 9:00 am, Grade 11 tour at 11:00 am, Grade 12 tour at 1:00 pm.

Teachers will not be available during the school tours. There will be a Curriculum Night in September where parents will have an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher.

**Housing Starts**

March—12  
April— 3  
May— 16  
June— 17



# Journal

**Communications Committee**

The non-profit *Shrewsbury School Journal* is published three times a year and reaches every household in the diverse and growing town of Shrewsbury. It is published by the central office of the Shrewsbury Public Schools with the help and expertise of many citizens. The mission of the *Shrewsbury School Journal* is to provide an accurate source of information about our school system and the town in which we live. We hope to foster a community of continuous learners.

**Anthony J. Bent**  
*Superintendent*

**Patrick Collins**  
*Director of Business Services*

**Dawna Alphonse**  
*Project Coordinator*

**Nancy Hochstein**  
*School Committee Member*

# Goodbye Mr. Brandmeyer

BY DR. ANTHONY BENT  
*SUPERINTENDENT*

Michael F. Brandmeyer, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Shrewsbury from 1995 to 2002, has left the district and is now the Superintendent of the Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln, Massachusetts. Just before he left in July, he and I had a conversation about his tenure in Shrewsbury.

**Anthony Bent:** Shrewsbury is not the only place you have worked, even though you've been in the district for most of your career.

**Mickey Brandmeyer:** I began my career in 1977 after having graduated from Assumption College. I started looking for teaching jobs and they were very scarce so I worked on my Master's, coached crew for a bit at Assumption, and worked as a substitute teacher. I then worked at the alternative high school at the Assabet Valley Collaborative Alternative High School for about 10 years.

**Anthony Bent:** And what have been the different positions you have held in this district?

**I'd like to be remembered as a teacher first because it's my love.**

Mickey Brandmeyer

**Mickey Brandmeyer:** Well, I first came to the district in January of 1985 and I began as a resource teacher at the high school. I had students in grades 8-12. I did that for a few years and moved into a position called administrative coordinator which was similar to an assistant principal's position at the high school. From there I came to the central office when you appointed me as the Assistant Superintendent.

**Anthony Bent:** You have a long history of success in this district. What do you think were the most significant accomplishments and how would you like to be remembered?

**Mickey Brandmeyer:** I'd like to be remembered as a teacher first because it's my love. Even now, both of us still teach in different ways, you in Spanish class and me with professional development. But I think one of the important contributions would be the work that I did in special education in collaboration with regular education teachers. Working with colleagues, we worked in a program called mainstreaming. It's now called inclusion. But it was really helping all students be successful in the regular curriculum. So I'd like to be remembered for being an advocate for all learners from the least able to the most able. One of the special projects that I worked on that was near and dear to my heart, because I think we've made some significant changes as a result of

it, was our Apple Classroom of Tomorrow Project. We began to integrate technology into the curriculum with the goal of providing support in different ways for teachers. So I think I'd like to be remembered as a good teacher. I'd also like to be remembered as a good administrator.

**Anthony Bent:** Are there any specific kinds of projects that you worked on as assistant superintendent that you feel really good about?

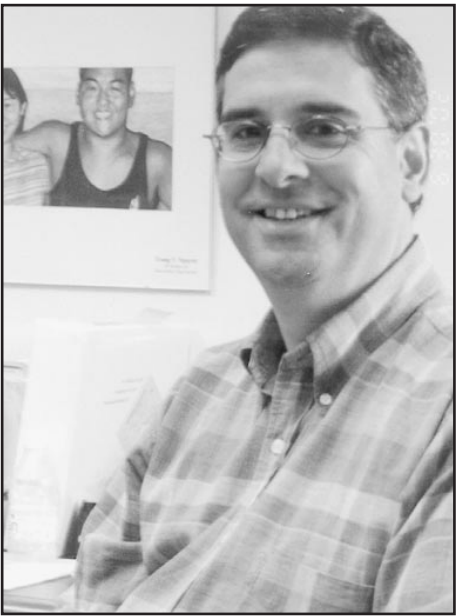
**Mickey Brandmeyer:** I think we've done a lot of good work together as an administrative team. When I look back on the seven years and see the evolution of our professional development program I'm pretty proud. Shrewsbury always had a good professional development program. But I think that we've been able to increase the scope and the scale of the projects. We've created new projects along the way. Most recently, we offered an administrator's training program. I also enjoyed establishing the district-based course, Strategies for Effective Teaching, then teaching it for four years. I think those are important pieces. I'm also proud of the work that the team had done last year around differentiating instruction because it's where I came from in terms of meeting the needs of all learners in regular education classrooms. Last year, beyond the summer institute we had two hundred teachers participate in our initial set of workshops. And as you know right now I'm trying to finalize the plans for next year for professional development and it's going to be high on our agenda again.

**Anthony Bent:** What is your opinion of how the school district has changed over the years now that you've been here twenty years?

**Mickey Brandmeyer:** The biggest change is simply our growth. The district is probably twice the size as it was when I first came here. We've grown quite a bit. But I think one of the things that's been interesting as we've changed is that the community has become more diverse, I think the needs of the students have changed as a result of that. I'm proud of the fact that our program has changed to meet those needs, to meet the needs of all the students during that period of rapid growth. I'm also pretty proud of the fact that we've hired great teachers during that time. I think since I've been in the central office, I've seen our faculty turn over by 50% through growth and transitions like retirement and folks moving away. And we continue to find some of the best teachers who are available.

**Anthony Bent:** What are your thoughts as you leave Shrewsbury to take on the role of superintendent of schools in the Lincoln Public Schools?

**Mickey Brandmeyer:** My thoughts are very mixed, having been here for almost twenty years. It's a place that I've grown very close to and love quite a bit. But I also know that I have ben-



Michael F. Brandmeyer

efited both personally and professionally from working with the administrative teams that have been here and the teachers and from the parents and the community who always give enough support and feedback along the way. So I'm going to miss those relationships. I'm going to miss feeling comfortable in a place where I've been so long and knowing what to do when situations come up. But at the same time I'm really energized by new challenges of Lincoln. For me the transition has been interesting and fun as I think about it. But it starts with getting to know people and their names and faces and really starting from scratch, starting from ground zero. And trying to understand the culture of the district. I'm also pretty excited about the opportunity to work with the folks in the METCO program, in which Boston students attend school in Lincoln.

**Anthony Bent:** You must feel prepared.

**Mickey Brandmeyer:** I do feel prepared. I've had a lot of great experiences here in Shrewsbury. I worked with teams of folks on all different levels. This is one of the good things about Shrewsbury. The central office has had a great team and with your leadership you've allowed us to do that. But I've had the chance to make difficult decisions. And that has prepared me well. I think I've seen just about everything you might see in a public school system. We've had to deal with some difficult and awkward situations. I think, over the course of time, our record will stand in that we did the right thing and also we did what was right. I do feel prepared.

*This writer wishes Mickey well in his new assignment. Michael Brandmeyer is an extraordinary school leader who will be missed in Shrewsbury. He will make a wonderful contribution to his new district. Shrewsbury was fortunate to have his talents as a teacher, administrative coordinator, and assistant superintendent for nearly 20 years.*

# High School

*Fitzgerald, from page 1*

provide students with better storage space.

Another significant feature is the property itself. There is ample outdoor space for the competition and practice athletic fields, tennis courts and outdoor basketball courts.

**Q:** We're all eagerly anticipating the school's opening for students on September 3rd. Will the school be ready?

**Henry:** The school will be ready! I will tell you that construction will continue until the last day! There is no doubt that after the school is occupied we will be completing some items that need repair or touch-up. The main road has almost been completed, although we are limiting access until the final paving of the roadway, which will be done in late August. Right now our biggest concern is having all the features of the auditorium completed. And although the athletic fields are progressing nicely, the Building Committee has recommended that they not be used

until next spring.

**Q:** When will members of the community have a chance to visit the school?

**Henry:** Community members are invited to attend the dedication ceremony on Sunday, September 22, at 2:00 pm. Following the ceremony, the school will be opened from 3:00-5:00 providing the public an opportunity to tour the facility. The community has made a tremendous financial commitment to support secondary school space, and I think they will be very pleased with the result.